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Balky Witness Is Indicted

A federal grand jury here yesterday indicted a Decatur, Ga., man on contempt of Congress charges for refusing to testify about an alleged offer of $75,000 to assassinate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The indictment charged Claude Powell Jr. with refusing to testify before the House Assassinations Committee on Feb. 6 after being subpoenaed for that date.

According to the indictment, the panel wanted to ask him about allegations that in 1967 or 1968 he and his brother, Leon Powell, "were asked in Atlanta, Ga., whether they might be interested in making a large sum of money by killing Martin Luther King Jr."

Persons connected with the committee have refused to say whether they believe the offer of money actually occurred, but said the issue was whether any witness can be allowed to defy a committee subpoena.